Case	2:22-cv-05367-RGK-MAA	Document 80 #:3732	Filed 06/17/23	Page 1 of 64 Page ID
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11	JOSHUA ASSIFF,		Case No. 2:22-	-cv-05367 RGK (MAAx)
12	Plaintif	f,	PLAINTIFF'S	S RESPONSE TO
13	v.			OF PURPORTED VERTED FACTS AND
14	COUNTY OF LOS AN	GELES:		NS OF LAW AND
15	SHERIFF DEPUTY B		ADDITIONAL TO TRIABLE	L FACTS GIVING RISE
16	NUMBER 404532; And DOES 1 through 1	10,	OPPOSITION	TO MOTION FOR
17	G	ŕ	PARTIAL SU	MMARY JUDGMENT
18 19	Defenda	ants.		
20				
21			DATE:	Juna 26, 2022
22			TIME:	June 26, 2023 9:00 a.m.
23			COURTROOM	1: 850
24			Action Filed: A	_
25			Pretrial Confer Trial Date: July	ence: July 10, 2023
26				
27			_	on. R. Gary Klausner, Courtroom 850
28			j,	
			1	

TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES IN THIS ACTION, AND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Plaintiff, JOSHUA ASSIFF (hereinafter "Plaintiff") hereby respectfully submits the following response to statement of purported uncontroverted facts and conclusions of law and additional facts giving rise to triable issues in opposition to the motion for partial summary judgment filed in this action by Defendants COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES and TRAVIS KELLY (hereinafter "Defendants").

PURPORTED UNCONTROVERTED FACT	PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE
1. On or about September 24, 2021, Plaintiff	UNDISPUTED
Joshua Assiff ("Plaintiff"), a 21-year-old	
black male, was pulled over and subsequently	
arrested by a male Caucasian motorcycle	
officer ("Defendant Kelly").	
2. Defendant Kelly initiated the traffic stop at	DISPUTED
the intersection of Soledad Canyon Road and	There was no probable cause for
Sierra Highway because he observed a black	the stop in the first place.
GMC Terrain (driven by Plaintiff) make a	Plaintiff made a legal turn on a
right-hand turn without stopping for the	green light. (Exhibit 1, Assiff
steady circular red traffic signal (violation of	Depo 46:20-21; 54:7-9; 60:19-20;
California Vehicle Code section 21453(b))	101:20) As the light was green,
and without yielding to pedestrians in the	there were no pedestrians in the
crosswalk (violation of California Vehicle	crosswalk. (Assiff Dec. 2:1-3)
Code section 21950(a)).	Note: Defendant Kelly made no
	mention of the pedestrians in the
	crosswalk until after he needed to
	justify his unlawful use of force.

	(Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
	BWC generally)
3. The incident was captured on video by	UNDISPUTED
Defendant Kelly once he activated his non-	
department issued personal Body Worn	
Camera ("BWC") as he was dismounting his	
motorcycle at the outset of the traffic stop.	
4. From the beginning of the traffic stop,	DISPUTED
Plaintiff was argumentative with Sergeant	Plaintiff was polite and courteous
Kelly about the reason for the traffic stop, and	to Defendant Kelly, always
contradicted Defendant Kelly's statement that	referring him as either "officer"
Plaintiff made a right-hand turn without	or "sir." Plaintiff stated his
stopping for the red traffic signal.	position that the light was in fact
	green in response to Defendant
	Kelly's false assertions that the
	light was red. (See, Exhibit B,
	Defendant Kelly's BWC)
5. While Plaintiff was speaking, Defendant	DISPUTED
Kelly could smell a strong odor of burnt	There was no marijuana smell. It
marijuana emitting from his vehicle.	was 7:50 a.m. in the morning and
	Plaintiff was on his way to
	Basketball practice. Plaintiff did
	not ingest marijuana that
	morning. Plaintiff did not smoke
	marijuana that morning. Plaintiff
	had never smoked marijuana in
	the Vehicle. (Exhibit 1, Assiff

	Depo 39:21-23, 41:9-11, 131:6-8;
	Assiff Dec. 2:13-16)
6. Due to Plaintiff's agitation, rapid speech,	DISPUTED
and odor of marijuana, Defendant Kelly	Plaintiff was not agitated and his
believed Plaintiff may have been under the	speech was not rapid. (See,
influence of marijuana.	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
	BWC generally) There was no
	marijuana smell. It was 7:50 a.m
	in the morning and Plaintiff was
	on his way to Basketball practice
	Plaintiff did not ingest marijuana
	that morning. Plaintiff did not
	smoke marijuana that morning.
	Plaintiff had never smoked
	marijuana in the Vehicle.
	(Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo 39:21-23
	41:9-11, 131:6-8; Assiff Dec.
	2:13-16)
7. Defendant Kelly requested Plaintiff's	DISPUTED
driver's license three times in the first	Defendant Kelly did not request
approximately 45 seconds of the BWC.	the driver's license three times.
	The first claimed request was
	interrupted by cross-talk and
	never completed. (See, Exhibit B
	Defendant Kelly's BWC at
	07:52:58)

	T
8. In response, Plaintiff continued arguing	DISPUTED
with Defendant Kelly and did not provide his	Once Plaintiff was requested to
driver's license.	produce his driver's license for
	the first time, Plaintiff
	immediately complied and
	reached for his wallet. (See,
	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
	BWC 07:53:25) Even Defendant
	Kelly in his deposition conceded
	that Plaintiff was in the process
	of producing his driver's licenses
	when Defendant Kelly, not
	Plaintiff, re-engaged Plaintiff in
	the debate over the color of the
	light. (Ferlauto Dec. 2:10-13)
9. At the third request for Plaintiff's driver's	DISPUTED
license, Sergeant Kelly warned Plaintiff to	Defendant Kelly did not request
"give me your driver's license or you're going	the driver's license three times.
to jail."	The first claimed request was
	interrupted by cross-talk and
	never completed. (See, Exhibit B,
	Defendant Kelly's BWC at
	07:52:58)
10. In response to the third request for	DISPUTED
Plaintiff's driver's license, Plaintiff stated "let	Defendant Kelly did not request

the driver's license three times.

The first claimed request was

me grab my phone," and began to reach

towards the center console of the vehicle with	interrupted by cross-talk and
his right hand.	never completed. (See, Exhibit B,
	Defendant Kelly's BWC at
	07:52:58)
	Plaintiff stated his intention to
	record the interaction on his
	mobile phone after Defendant
	Kelly irrationally threatened to
	throw Plaintiff in jail 42 seconds
	into traffic stop for a minor traffic
	infraction. (See, Exhibit B,
	Defendant Kelly's BWC at
	07:53:33-37)
11. Immediately thereafter, Defendant Kelly	UNDISPUTED
opened Plaintiff's driver's door and ordered	However, it should be noted that
Plaintiff to exit the vehicle. Plaintiff	this all happened simultaneous
responded "no I'm not."	with Defendant Kelly grabbing
	Plaintiff's arm to prevent Plaintiff
	from recording the interaction on
	his mobile phone. (See, Exhibit
	B, Defendant Kelly's BWC at
	07:53:40)
12. Between approximately 45 seconds and 1	DISPUTED
minute and 20 seconds into the BWC footage,	Plaintiff did not kick Defendant
Defendant Kelly initiated physical contact	Kelly (Assiff Dec. 2:17-20;
with Plaintiff's left wrist to pull him out of	Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo. 145:9-13
the vehicle, which Plaintiff physically resisted	"There was no – there was no

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by pulling his arm away; Defendant Kelly's report on the incident indicates that he felt Plaintiff kick him during this brief struggle.

fight. It wasn't me, you know, besides me pulling back my arm, none of that. While all that was going on, I didn't kick, I didn't punch, nothing." See also, Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's BWC, Kelly grabs for Plaintiff's cell phone and no kick is visible, 07:53:40) Apart from this "phantom kick" not being visible on the video record, it is implausible to the point of being impossible that it took place when Defendant Kelly claims during the fleeting moment when Plaintiff's legs are not visible, given Plaintiff's 6 foot 8 inch frame, and the fact that his long legs are seen wedged deep within the floorboard area seconds latter. Furthermore, Defendant Kelly conceded in his deposition the he did not see the kick. His motorcycle pants were thickly padded and it may have been Plaintiff's knee with which he came into contact. (See, Ferlauto

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Dec. 2:14-16) Basically,
Defendant Kelly fabricated this
claimed assault and battery on an
officer to justify, after the fact,
his unlawful use of force against
Plaintiff.
UNDISPUTED
UNDISPUTED
UNDISPUTED
However, it should be noted that
after Defendant Kelly threatened
to pepper spray Plaintiff only 73
seconds into a traffic stop for a
minor traffic infraction, Plaintiff
requested to speak with
Defendant Kelly's supervisor.
(See, Exhibit B, Defendant
Kelly's BWC at 07:54:06)
UNDISPUTED
However, it should be noted that
Defendant Kelly deployed the
pepper spray in immediate

1 burst, and initiated second physical contact response to Plaintiff's request to 2 with Plaintiff to pull him out of the vehicle. speak with Defendant Kelly's 3 supervisor. The request to speak 4 to the supervisor was at 07:54:06, 5 the pepper spray was deployed at 6 07:54:07 and Defendant Kelly 7 can be heard angrily shouting "I 8 AM THE SUPERVISOR" as he 9 sprayed the pepper spray into 10 Plaintiff's face. (See, Exhibit B, 11 Defendant Kelly's BWC at 12 07:54:06-7) 13 17. At about 1 minute and 25 seconds into the UNDISPUTED 14 BWC footage, a second Deputy (identified as 15 Deputy Joshua Clark) can be seen attempting 16 to aid Defendant Kelly with Plaintiff to pull 17 him out of the vehicle. 18 18. Defendant Kelly reported that he saw DISPUTED 19 Plaintiff punch Deputy Clark in the chest, and Plaintiff did not punch Deputy 20 he punched Plaintiff in the face with his left Clark in the chest. (Assiff Dec. 21 2:17-20; Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo. fist. 22 145:9-13 "There was no – there 23 was no fight. It wasn't me, you 24 know, besides me pulling back 25 my arm, none of that. While all 26 that was going on, I didn't kick, I 27 didn't punch, nothing." See, also 28

1 Defendant Kelly's BWC, no 2 punch by Plaintiff is ever visible. 3 Furthermore, Defendant Kelly in 4 his deposition conceded that he 5 could not see the punch on the 6 video and had trouble locating 7 where in the video it allegedly 8 occurred. (Ferlauto Dec. 2:17-19) 9 Again, Defendant Kelly 10 fabricated this claimed assault 11 and battery on an officer to 12 justify, after the fact, his unlawful 13 use of force against Plaintiff. 14 19. The physical struggle between the two **DISPUTED** 15 Deputies and Plaintiff continued for about 55 Plaintiff's resistance was passive. 16 seconds while plaintiff was still seated in the (Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert 17 driver's seat of his vehicle actively resisting. Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 18, 18 \P 44) As can be seen from 19 Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's 20 BWC, generally, Plaintiff 21 passively resisting the deputies' 22 efforts to remove him from the 23 vehicle, the "struggle" was one 24 sided as the deputies pepper 25 sprayed, punched and choked 26 Plaintiff. (Assiff Dec. 2:17-20; 27 Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo. 145:9-13

1		"There was no – there was no
2		fight. It wasn't me, you know,
3		besides me pulling back my arm,
4		none of that. While all that was
5		going on, I didn't kick, I didn't
6		punch, nothing.")
7	20. At about 2 minutes and 20 seconds, a	UNDISPUTED
8	third Deputy (Deputy Garrett Gallegos)	
9	arrived on the scene.	
10	21. Shortly thereafter, Deputy Gallegos	UNDISPUTED
11	deployed his Taser to Plaintiff's back through	
12	direct contact.	
13	22. At about 2 minutes and 27 seconds, the	UNDISPUTED
14	three Deputies were able to bring Plaintiff out	
15	of his vehicle and to the ground next to it.	
16 17	23. Once on the ground, Plaintiff continued	DISPUTED
18	kicking and pulling his arms away despite	Plaintiff was obviously
19	commands to get onto his stomach and stop	involuntarily thrashing about as a
20	resisting.	result of being pepper sprayed in
21		the face a tased in the back. He
22		did not kick or punch. (Assiff
23		Dec. 2:17-20; Exhibit 1, Assiff
24		Depo. 145:9-13 "There was no –
25		there was no fight. It wasn't me,
26		you know, besides me pulling
27		back my arm, none of that.
28		While all that was going on, I
40		

	didn't kick, I didn't punch,
	nothing.")
24. At about 2 minutes and 36 seconds,	UNDISPUTED as to the facts
Deputy Gallegos again deployed his Taser to	that the Taser was deployed,
Plaintiff in an attempt to gain compliance.	disputed that is was to gain
	compliance. It was an unlawful
	use of force.
25. Defendant Kelly ordered Plaintiff to roll	UNDISPUTED
onto his stomach and place his hands behind	
his back, and warned that the Taser would be	
used again if he did not comply.	
26. Plaintiff then rolled onto his stomach,	DISPUTED
stopped resisting and was placed in	Plaintiff was not resisted while
handcuffs.	on the ground (See, Additional
	Fact 117)
27. Based on the foregoing, Defendant Kelly	DISPUTED
believed there was probable cause to arrest	There was no probable cause for
Plaintiff for violation of California Penal	the stop in the first place.
Code sections 69 (resisting an officer) and	Plaintiff made a legal turn on a
243(b) (battery against the person of an	green light. (Exhibit 1, Assiff
officer).	Depo 46:20-21; 54:7-9; 60:19-20;
	101:20) As the light was green,
	there were no pedestrians in the
	crosswalk. (Assiff Dec. 2:1-3)
	There was no marijuana smell. It
	was 7:50 a.m. in the morning and
	Plaintiff was on his way to

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Basketball practice. Plaintiff did not ingest marijuana that morning. Plaintiff did not smoke marijuana that morning. Plaintiff had never smoked marijuana in the Vehicle. (Assiff Dec. 2:7-8, 13-16; Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo 39:21-23, 41:9-11, 131:6-8) Plaintiff did not kick Defendant Kelly. Plaintiff did not punch Deputy Clark. (Assiff Dec. 2:17-20; Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo. 145:9-13 "There was no – there was no fight. It wasn't me, you know, besides me pulling back my arm, none of that. While all that was going on, I didn't kick, I didn't punch, nothing." See, also Defendant Kelly's BWC, Kelly grabs for Plaintiff's cell phone and no kick is visible, 07:53:40) Apart from this "phantom kick" not being visible on the video record, it is implausible to the point of being impossible that it took place when Defendant Kelly

claims during the fleeting

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moment when Plaintiff's legs are not visible, given Plaintiff's 6 foot 8 inch frame, and the fact that his long legs are seen wedged deep within the floorboard area seconds latter. Furthermore, Defendant Kelly conceded in his deposition the he did not see the kick. His motorcycle pants were thickly padded and it may have been Plaintiff's knee with which he came into contact. (See, Ferlauto Dec. 2:14-16) Basically, Defendant Kelly fabricated this claimed assault and battery on an officer to justify, after the fact, his unlawful use of force against Plaintiff.

28. On September 25, 2021, a judicial officer of the State of California found that there was probable cause for Plaintiff's subject arrest for California *Penal Code* sections 69 (resisting an officer) and 243(b) (battery against the person of an officer).

DISPUTED

This alleged "finding" is objectionable, irrelevant, and inadmissible. The judicial officer had no personal knowledge of the incident and his alleged finding on a one-paged ex parte e-signed booking form, is not entitled to

1 any collateral estoppel effect. 2 The issue was never litigated. 3 Plaintiff was not present. 4 Plaintiff was not represented. 5 Plaintiff was not given any 6 opportunity to be heard. Only 7 Defendant Kelly's short one-8 sided declaration was even 9 considered. Also, this 10 "proceeding" did not end with a 11 final judgment on the merits. 12 Plaintiff was never convicted of 13 anything. There was not even a 14 preliminary hearing where 15 Plaintiff might have had an 16 opportunity to be heard. There 17 was no preliminary hearing, 18 because there were no criminal 19 proceedings. This was a DA 20 reject – no charges were even 21 brought by the District Attorney. 22 There was not even probable 23 cause for the traffic stop itself. 24 (See, Response to Purported 25 Uncontroverted Fact 27, above, 26 and Additional Facts 101-103, 27 below) 28

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29. Based upon his education, training, experience, and review of materials to date, Defendants' disclosed expert, Michael Gray, opines that there was probable cause for Plaintiff's arrests.

DISPUTED

This purported expert opinion on "probable cause" is improper inadmissible and irrelevant. Legal conclusions (i.e., opinions on an ultimate issue of law) are not "helpful" and therefore should be excluded. "Each courtroom comes equipped with a 'legal expert' called a judge, and it is his or her province alone to instruct the jury on the relevant legal standards." [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area *Transit Auth.* (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 1207, 1213; Nationwide Transport Finance v. Cass Information Systems, Inc. (9th Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-1060 It is error to permit an expert to testify in terms having specialized legal meaning distinct from ordinary usage. [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Auth., supra, 112 F3d at 1215; Woods v. Lecureux (6th Cir. 1997) 110 F3d 1215, 1219-

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1		1220—in 42 USC § 1983 civil
2		rights action against prison
3		warden, expert witness prohibited
4		from using term "deliberately
5		indifferent" to describe
6		defendant's conduct]
7		There was not even probable
8		cause for the traffic stop itself.
9		(See, Response to Purported
10		Uncontroverted Fact 27, above,
11		and Additional Facts 101-103,
12		below)
13	30. Plaintiff alleges that he was pulled over	UNDISPUTED
14	and subsequently arrested for no apparent	
15	reason and without probable cause.	
16	31. Plaintiff further alleges that he was	UNDISPUTED
17 18	tasered, choked, pepper sprayed, beaten, and	
19	arrested, all in violation of his constitutional	
20	rights.	
20	32. As to Defendant Kelly, Plaintiff alleges	UNDISPUTED
22	that he "acting under color or law or color of	
23	authority, deprived Plaintiff of his rights,	
24	privileges, or immunities secured by the State	
25	and Federal Constitutions, by arresting	
26	Plaintiff without probable cause and with use	
27	of excess force in violation of the Fourth and	
<i>∠ 1</i>		

1	Fourteenth Amendment to the United States	
2	Constitution."	
3	33. Defendant Kelly's BWC footage indicates	DISPUTED
4	that Plaintiff both verbally and physically	See, Exhibit B, Defendant
5	resisted Defendant Kelly's detention;	Kelly's BWC video, generally, as
6	specifically, Plaintiff verbally argued with	well as Plaintiff's responses to
7	Sergeant Kelly regarding the legality of the	Defendants' purported
8	traffic stop, he declined to provide his	uncontroverted facts 1-26, above,
9	driver's license when requested (three times)	and Plaintiff's Additional Facts
10	(a violation of California Vehicle Code	101-117, below. See also,
11	12951(b), a misdemeanor) and, even after he	Additional Facts 118-139
12	was warned that failure to do so would result	
13 14	in an arrest, he refused to exit the vehicle	
15	despite being ordered to do so several times.	
16	34. Citizens are aware (California DMV	UNDISPUTED
17	Handbook and CVC 12951(b)) that when	
18	stopped by law enforcement they must	
19	produce a driver's license, proof of insurance	
20	and vehicle registration and if told to exit a	
21	vehicle they must comply. Citizens are	
22	generally aware they do have a First	
23	Amendment right to record interactions with	
24	law enforcement but do not have a right to	
25	interfere with the officer's lawful duties or	
26	commands.	
27	35. Plaintiff was warned that failure to do so	DISPUTED
28	would result in him being pepper sprayed,	
_0		

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and he physically resisted and fought Defendant Kelly's attempts to remove him from his vehicle to effectuate an arrest a violation of *Penal Code* Section 148. See, Exhibit B, Defendant
Kelly's BWC video, generally, as
well as Plaintiff's responses to
Defendants' purported
uncontroverted facts 1-26, above,
and Plaintiff's Additional Facts
101-117, below. See also,
Additional Facts 118-139.

36. Collectively, this series of failures to comply and the escalation from passive to aggressive resistance on the Plaintiff's behalf provided Defendant Kelly with the probable cause to lawfully arrest Plaintiff pursuant to California Penal Code section 836—which allows a peace officer to arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense in the officer's presence.

DISPUTED

This purported expert opinion on "probable cause" is improper inadmissible and irrelevant. Legal conclusions (i.e., opinions on an ultimate issue of law) are not "helpful" and therefore should be excluded. "Each courtroom comes equipped with a 'legal expert' called a judge, and it is his or her province alone to instruct the jury on the relevant legal standards." [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 1207, 1213; Nationwide Transport Finance v. Cass Information Systems, Inc. (9th Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-

1 1060 It is error to permit an 2 expert to testify in terms having 3 specialized legal meaning distinct 4 from ordinary usage. [Burkhart v. 5 Washington Metropolitan Area 6 Transit Auth., supra, 112 F3d at 7 1215; Woods v. Lecureux (6th 8 Cir. 1997) 110 F3d 1215, 1219-9 <u>1220</u>—in <u>42 USC § 1983</u> civil 10 rights action against prison 11 warden, expert witness prohibited 12 from using term "deliberately 13 indifferent" to describe 14 defendant's conduct] 15 See, Exhibit B, Defendant 16 Kelly's BWC video, generally, as 17 well as Plaintiff's responses to 18 Defendants' purported 19 uncontroverted facts 1-26, above, 20 and Plaintiff's Additional Facts 21 101-117, below. See also, 22 Additional Facts 118-139. 23 37. Based on Plaintiff's aforementioned **DISPUTED** 24 conduct, Defendant Kelly's conduct was See, Exhibit B, Defendant 25 objectively reasonable under the Kelly's BWC video, generally, as 26 circumstances and is compliant with law well as Plaintiff's responses to 27 Defendants' purported 28

enforcement training, policies, and	uncontroverted facts 1-26, above,
procedures.	and Plaintiff's Additional Facts
	101-117, below. See also,
	Additional Facts 118-139.
38. Fourth Amendment jurisprudence has	UNDISPUTED
long recognized that the right to make an	However, there was no probable
arrest or investigatory stop necessarily carries	cause even for the stop itself.
with it the right to use some degree of	(See, Additional Facts 101-103)
physical coercion or threat thereof to effect it.	
39. Defendant Kelly's conduct was not	DISPUTED
excessive force and, instead, was an	See, Exhibit B, Defendant
appropriate degree of force, that is objectively	Kelly's BWC video, generally, as
reasonable, in light of Plaintiff's continued	well as Plaintiff's responses to
resistance and failure to comply with	Defendants' purported
Defendant Kelly's reasonable orders.	uncontroverted facts 1-26, above,
	and Plaintiff's Additional Facts
	101-117, below. See also,
	Additional Facts 118-139.
40. As to the County, Plaintiff alleges in a	DISPUTED
conclusory manner that the "County	The allegation was not
knowingly and intentionally promulgated,	"conclusory" and in fact was
maintained, applied, enforced, and continued	found to be sufficiently specific
policies, customs, practices and usages	in the Court's ruling on
include[ing], without limitation, the	Defendant's motion to dismiss.
employment of motorcycle and other officers	(February 16, 2023, Docket No.
to make unnecessary and unwarranted traffic	35)
stops to bully and harass African American	

drivers. This would include among other	
things, the initiation of frivolous traffic stops,	
arrest without probably cause, and the use of	
excessive force to effectuate the arrest."	
41. Plaintiff cites to a 2013 Department of	UNDISPUTED
Justice, Civil Rights Division's review of	
LASD's Antelope Valley stations which	
eventually led to a legal settlement with	
federal authorities. Plaintiff alleges the	
Department of Justice's findings regarding	
racial profiling and discriminatory traffic	
stops in Antelope Valley are persistent and	
ongoing recognized by the Department of	
Justice, Civil Rights Division.	
42. However, the legal settlement and	UNDISPUTED
findings do not mention nor provide findings	However, the incident that is the
as to LASD Santa Clarita Valley station.	subject matter of this lawsuit
	happened while Plaintiff was
	traveling to the Antelope Valley
	However, it occurred in Santa
	Clarita, in a northern part of the
	County, but just one Sheriff's
	Department station adjacent to
	but south of the actual Antelope
	Valley. (Additional Fact 152)
43. On or about September 24, 2021,	UNDISPUTED
Defendant Kelly was assigned to LASD Santa	

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Clarita Valley station. At no point has Defendant Kelly been assigned to nor worked with LASD Antelope Valley stations, including LASD Lancaster and Palmdale stations.

However, the incident that is the subject matter of this lawsuit happened while Plaintiff was traveling to the Antelope Valley. However, it occurred in Santa Clarita, in a northern part of the County, but just one Sheriff's Department station adjacent to but south of the actual Antelope Valley. (Additional Fact 152)

44. Moreover, the DOJ's failure to include, mention, or review LASD Santa Clarita Valley station in their study in fact suggests no pervasive, continuous, or known unconstitutional policies or practices existed or allowed for Plaintiff's alleged constitutional violation.

DISPUTED

This is an improper expert opinion as it constitutes a legal opinion on an ultimate issue of law. [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 1207, 1213; *Nationwide* Transport Finance v. Cass *Information Systems, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-1060] Furthermore, this opinion is based upon an inadequate review of necessary evidence and thus lacks a proper foundation for this opinion.

1		Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
2		156
3	45. Plaintiff has failed to provide any	DISPUTED
4	evidence or identify any specific policies or	This is an improper expert
5	customs that LASD Santa Clarita Valley,	opinion as it constitutes a legal
6	Deputy's assigned station which had	opinion on an ultimate issue of
7	jurisdiction over Defendant Kelly, held or	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
8	allowed which caused Plaintiff's alleged	Metropolitan Area Transit
9	constitutional violation.	Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
10		1207, 1213; <i>Nationwide</i>
11		Transport Finance v. Cass
12		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
13		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
14		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
15		is based upon an inadequate
16		review of necessary evidence and
17		thus lacks a proper foundation for
18		this opinion.
19		Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
20 21		156
21	46. The County of Los Angeles neither	DISPUTED
23	promulgates, maintains, nor enforces customs	This is an improper expert
24	or policies that allowed for nor caused	opinion as it constitutes a legal
25	Plaintiff injury.	opinion on an ultimate issue of
26		law. [Burkhart v. Washington
27		Metropolitan Area Transit
28		Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
40		

1		1207, 1213; Nationwide
2		Transport Finance v. Cass
3		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
4		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
5		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
6		is based upon an inadequate
7		review of necessary evidence and
8		thus lacks a proper foundation for
9		this opinion.
10		Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
11		156
12	47. The County of Los Angeles and its	DISPUTED
13	Sheriff's Department take steps to ensure that	This is an improper expert
14	its deputies act lawfully and do not violate	opinion as it constitutes a legal
15	civil rights when enforcing the law.	opinion on an ultimate issue of
16		law. [Burkhart v. Washington
17		Metropolitan Area Transit
18		Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
19		1207, 1213; <i>Nationwide</i>
20		Transport Finance v. Cass
21		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
22		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
23		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
24		is based upon an inadequate
25		review of necessary evidence and
26 27		thus lacks a proper foundation for
20		this opinion.

1 Additional Facts 140-151, 152-2 156 3 48. There does not exist, nor did there exist at **DISPUTED** 4 the time of the events underlying this action This is an improper expert 5 that gives rise to this litigation in September opinion as it constitutes a legal 6 2021, within the LASD, nor does the LASD opinion on an ultimate issue of 7 condone, a custom, practice or policy of law. [Burkhart v. Washington 8 conducting unreasonable searches and Metropolitan Area Transit 9 seizures. Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 10 1207, 1213; Nationwide 11 Transport Finance v. Cass 12 *Information Systems, Inc.* (9th 13 Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-14 1060] Furthermore, this opinion 15 is based upon an inadequate 16 review of necessary evidence and 17 thus lacks a proper foundation for 18 this opinion. 19 Additional Facts 140-151, 152-20 156 21 49. There has never existed any policy, **DISPUTED** 22 custom, or practice of random stopping of This is an improper expert 23 citizens without cause, nor has there ever opinion as it constitutes a legal 24 been any policy, custom, or practice of racial opinion on an ultimate issue of 25 profiling or discriminating against citizens law. [Burkhart v. Washington 26 based on their race or ethnicity. Metropolitan Area Transit 27 Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 28

1		1207, 1213; Nationwide
2		Transport Finance v. Cass
3		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
4		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
5		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
6		is based upon an inadequate
7		review of necessary evidence and
8		thus lacks a proper foundation for
9		this opinion.
10		Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
11		156
12	50. There does not exist, nor did there exist at	DISPUTED
13	the time of the events underlying this action	This is an improper expert
14	that gives rise to this litigation, within the	opinion as it constitutes a legal
15	LASD, nor does the LASD condone, a	opinion on an ultimate issue of
16	custom, practice or policy of permitting the	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
17	use of excessive force against any person.	Metropolitan Area Transit
18		Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
19		1207, 1213; Nationwide
20		Transport Finance v. Cass
21		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
22		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
23		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
24		is based upon an inadequate
25		review of necessary evidence and
26		thus lacks a proper foundation for
27		this opinion.

	Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
	156
51. There does not exist, nor did there exist a	at DISPUTED
the time of the events underlying this action	This is an improper expert
that gives rise to this litigation, within the	opinion as it constitutes a legal
LASD, nor does the LASD condone, a	opinion on an ultimate issue of
custom, practice or policy of permitting	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
unlawful arrests.	Metropolitan Area Transit
	Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
	1207, 1213; Nationwide
	Transport Finance v. Cass
	Information Systems, Inc. (9th
	Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
	1060] Furthermore, this opinion
	is based upon an inadequate
	review of necessary evidence and
	thus lacks a proper foundation for
	this opinion.
	Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
	156
52. There does not exist, nor did there exist a	at DISPUTED
the time of the events underlying this action	This is an improper expert
that gives rise to this litigation, within the	opinion as it constitutes a legal
LASD, nor does the LASD condone, a	opinion on an ultimate issue of
custom, practice or policy of retaliating	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
against citizens based on their exercise of	Metropolitan Area Transit
First Amendment rights.	Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d

1207, 1213; Nationwide

Transport Finance v. Cass

Information Systems, Inc. (9th
Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 10581060] Furthermore, this opinion
is based upon an inadequate
review of necessary evidence and
thus lacks a proper foundation for
this opinion.

Additional Facts 140-151, 152-156

53. There does not exist at the LASD, nor did there exist at the time of the events underlying this action, a custom, practice or policy of employing and retaining as deputies and other personnel who the County of Los Angeles knew or reasonably should have known had dangerous propensities for abusing their authority and/or for mistreating citizens by failing to follow written LASD policies, including by conducting unreasonable searches and seizures or using excessive force.

DISPUTED

This is an improper expert opinion as it constitutes a legal opinion on an ultimate issue of law. [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 1207, 1213; Nationwide Transport Finance v. Cass Information Systems, Inc. (9th Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-1060] Furthermore, this opinion is based upon an inadequate review of necessary evidence and thus lacks a proper foundation for this opinion.

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54. There does not exist at the LASD, nor did there exist at the time of the events underlying this action, a custom, practice or policy of inadequately supervising, training, controlling, assigning, and disciplining deputies and other personnel including who the County of Los Angeles allegedly knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known had a propensity for abusing their authority and/or for mistreating citizens by failing to follow written LASD policies, including by conducting unreasonable searches and seizures or using excessive force.

Additional Facts 140-151, 152-156

DISPUTED

This is an improper expert opinion as it constitutes a legal opinion on an ultimate issue of law. [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d 1207, 1213; Nationwide Transport Finance v. Cass *Information Systems, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-1060] Furthermore, this opinion is based upon an inadequate review of necessary evidence and thus lacks a proper foundation for this opinion. Additional Facts 140-151, 152-

55. There does not exist at the LASD, nor did there exist at the time of the events underlying this action, a custom, practice or policy of maintaining inadequate procedures for reporting, supervising, investigating, reviewing, disciplining and controlling

DISPUTED

156

This is an improper expert opinion as it constitutes a legal opinion on an ultimate issue of law. [Burkhart v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d

1	alleged intentional misconduct by deputies of	1207, 1213; <i>Nationwide</i>
2	the LASD.	Transport Finance v. Cass
3		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
4		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
5		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
6		is based upon an inadequate
7		review of necessary evidence and
8		thus lacks a proper foundation for
9		this opinion.
10		Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
11		156
12	56. There does not exist at the LASD, nor did	DISPUTED
13	there exist at the time of the events	This is an improper expert
14	underlying this action, a custom, practice or	opinion as it constitutes a legal
15	policy of failing to discipline County of Los	opinion on an ultimate issue of
16	Angeles deputies' misconduct.	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
17		Metropolitan Area Transit
18		Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
19		1207, 1213; <i>Nationwide</i>
20		Transport Finance v. Cass
21		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
22		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
23		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
24		is based upon an inadequate
2526		review of necessary evidence and
27		thus lacks a proper foundation for
21		this opinion.

	Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
	156
57. There does not exist at the LASD, nor did	DISPUTED
there exist at the time of the events	This is an improper expert
underlying this action, a custom, practice or	opinion as it constitutes a legal
policy of ratifying any alleged intentional	opinion on an ultimate issue of
misconduct of deputies of the LASD.	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
	Metropolitan Area Transit
	Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d
	1207, 1213; Nationwide
	Transport Finance v. Cass
	Information Systems, Inc. (9th
	Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
	1060] Furthermore, this opinion
	is based upon an inadequate
	review of necessary evidence an
	thus lacks a proper foundation for
	this opinion.
	Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
	156
58. As such, there is no evidence to indicate	DISPUTED
that the LASD has a custom or practice of	This is an improper expert
violating the civil rights of citizens.	opinion as it constitutes a legal
	opinion on an ultimate issue of
	law. [Burkhart v. Washington
	Metropolitan Area Transit
	Auth. (DC Cir. 1997) 112 F3d

1		1207, 1213; Nationwide
2		Transport Finance v. Cass
3		Information Systems, Inc. (9th
4		Cir. 2008) 523 F3d 1051, 1058-
5		1060] Furthermore, this opinion
6		is based upon an inadequate
7		review of necessary evidence and
8		thus lacks a proper foundation for
9		this opinion.
10		Additional Facts 140-151, 152-
11		156
12	59. The LASD has a very comprehensive Use	UNDISPUTED
13	of Force manual that gives thorough and	
14	specific details on the use of force and the	
15	reporting of such use of force.	
16 17	60. Defendant Kelly knew that the County	DISPUTED
18	and LASD maintained and strictly enforced	Defendant Kelly knew that he
19	policies and procedures regarding traffic	could act in a rude,
20	stops, as well as the use of force, including	unprofessional, discrediting,
21	de-escalation procedures.	officious, and overbearing (if not
22		illegal) manner and still be
23		promoted to sergeant. In fact,
24		Defendant Kelly claims he was
25		required to sign a document
26		stating that he had acted in a
27		rude, unprofessional,
28		discrediting, officious, and
20		

	overbearing (if not illegal)
	manner to secure his promotion
	to sergeant. (See, Additional
	Facts 140-151, Specifically
	Additional Fact 148)
61. Defendant Kelly received all required	DISPUTED
LASD training concerning how to conduct	Defendant Kelly did not receiv
traffic stops and how to appropriately respond	adequate training as he did not
to passive and active resistance from	appropriately respond in this
motorists while conducting traffic stops.	incident. (See, Additional Facts
	118-128) Defendant Kelly's
	superiors fabricated an incident
	that did not take place to suppo
	its position that Defendant Kel
	had been properly trained in de
	escalation techniques. (Exhibit
	County 110) However, the
	County has no record whatsoev
	of this prior incident. (Exhibit 3
	Furthermore, in deposition
	Defendant Kelly denied that an
	such incident took place.
	(Ferlauto Dec. 2:20-23)
62. Further, Defendant Kelly received LASD	DISPUTED
training concerning de-escalation procedures	Defendant Kelly did not receiv
that may be used while conducting these	adequate training as he did not
traffic stops.	use any de-escalation technique

in this incident. (See, Additional Facts 118-128) Defendant Kelly's superiors fabricated an incident that did not take place to support its position that Defendant Kelly had been properly trained in de-escalation techniques. (Exhibit 2, County 110) However, the County has no record whatsoever of this prior incident. (Exhibit 3) Furthermore, in deposition Defendant Kelly denied that any such incident took place. (Ferlauto Dec. 2:20-23)

63. Nothing in Defendant Kelly's personnel history presented as concerns that would give Defendant County of Los Angeles the impression that Defendant Kelly is either unfit for duty or dismissive of relevant policies and procedures.

DISPUTED

Defendant Kelly is a bad motorcycle cop. He has repeatedly been subject to complaints from members of the public for being rude and abusive. (See Additional Facts 141-145) Defendant Kelly was cited for rude, unprofessional, discrediting, officious, and overbearing (if not illegal) conduct in connection with a

from a traffic stop when he was pulled over by an LAPD police officer. (See, Additional Facts 147 and 148) Defendant Kelly was suspended for 4 days as a result of a serious use of force incident against an Hispanic inmate who he called a "faggot" and a "little punk" and opened his cell door against Department policy to challenge the inmate to a fight. (See, Additional Facts 149 and 150)

incident where he himself fled

64. Supervisor and management personnel of the LASD, who supervise and manage Defendant Kelly for The County of Los Angeles, responded appropriately in the review and handling of this incident, specifically shown in Defendant Kelly's superiors review and follow up report of the incident.

DISPUTED

Defendant Kelly's superiors in their use of force review attempted to demonstrate that Defendant Kelly was aware of appropriate de-escalation training and techniques by stated Defendant Kelly appropriately used these techniques with an uncooperative driver just 24 minutes prior to the incident involving Plaintiff. (Exhibit 2, County 110) However, the

1		County has no record whatsoever
2		of this prior incident. (Exhibit 3)
3		Furthermore, in deposition
4		Defendant Kelly denied that any
5		such incident took place.
6		(Ferlauto Dec. 2:20-23)
7		Basically, the County fabricated
8		an incident that did not take place
9		to support its position that
10		Defendant Kelly had been
11		properly trained in de-escalation
12		techniques.
13	65. Based upon his education, training,	PLAINTIFF DOES NOT
14	experience, and review of materials to date,	DISPUTE THAT GRAY
15	Defendants' disclosed expert, Michael Gray,	OPINED, BUT HIS OPINIONS
16	opines that the County of Los Angeles	ARE DISPUTED
17	responded appropriately to the incident, and;	See Additional Facts 118-156
18	no pattern of unconstitutional acts by	
19	Defendant Kelly or the County of Los	
20	Angeles exist that caused Plaintiff injury.	
21	66. There is nothing in the record(s) reviewed	DISPUTED
22	that would indicate that the LASD failed to	When Plaintiff requested to speak
23	properly supervise Defendant Kelly.	to Defendant Kelly's supervisor,
24		Defendant Kelly pepper sprayed
25		Plaintiff in the face and <i>claimed</i>
26		to be his own supervisor. Thus,
27		Defendant Kelly apparently had
28		

	no supervision whatsoever. (See,
	Additional Fact 113)
67. The reporting process and follow up	DISPUTED
investigation was proper, thorough and	Defendant Kelly's superiors in
followed LASD policies and procedures.	their use of force review
	attempted to demonstrate that
	Defendant Kelly was aware of
	appropriate de-escalation training
	and techniques by stated
	Defendant Kelly appropriately
	used these techniques with an
	uncooperative driver just 24
	minutes prior to the incident
	involving Plaintiff. (Exhibit 2,
	County 110) However, the
	County has no record whatsoeve
	of this prior incident. (Exhibit 3)
	Furthermore, in deposition
	Defendant Kelly denied that any
	such incident took place.
	(Ferlauto Dec. 2:20-23)
	Basically, the County fabricated
	an incident that did not take place
	to support its position that
	Defendant Kelly had been
	properly trained in de-escalation
	techniques.

1	68. Defendant Kelly did not intend to use	DISPUTED
2	unreasonable or excessive force against	Defendant Kelly's use of pepper
3	Plaintiff at any point during the incident.	spray on Plaintiff was objectively
4		unreasonable, excessive and
5		inconsistent with generally
6		accepted police practices. (See,
7		Additional Fact 129) Defendant
8		Kelly's punch to Plaintiff's face
9		was objectively unreasonable,
10		excessive and inconsistent with
11		generally accepted police
12		practices. (See, Additional Fact
13		138)
14	69. At no point during his encounter with	DISPUTED
15	Plaintiff did Defendant Kelly ever retaliate	Defendant Kelly retaliated
16	against Plaintiff for anything he said or did to	against Plaintiff for trying to
17	Defendant Kelly or other LASD deputies, nor	record the encounter on his
18 19	did I ever retaliate against Plaintiff for	mobile phone. (See, Additional
20	recording the incident.	Facts 108 and 109) Defendant
20		Kelly retaliated against Plaintiff
22		for requesting to speak to
23		Defendant Kelly's supervisor.
24		(See, Plaintiff's Additional Facts
25		112 and 113)
26	70. At no point during his encounter with	DISPUTED
26	Plaintiff were Defendant Kelly's actions due	Defendants Uncontroverted Fact
28	to racial animus or discriminatory motive.	1; Plaintiff's Additional Facts
40		

	101-103, 148, 149-150, and 152
	156
71. Nor at any point during the encounter	DISPUTED
with Plaintiff did Defendant Kelly witness	Plaintiff's Additional Fact 139
any other LASD deputy act out of racial	
animus or discriminatory motive, or	
otherwise conduct themselves unlawfully or	
unreasonably.	
72. Defendant Kelly did not racially profile	DISPUTED
Plaintiff in initiating the traffic stop.	Defendants Uncontroverted Fac
	1; Plaintiff's Additional Facts
	101-103, 148, 149-150, and 152
	156
73. Furthermore, at no point during my	DISPUTED
interaction with Plaintiff did Defendant Kelly	See, Plaintiff's Additional Facts
act with malice, oppression or in reckless	101-139
disregard of Plaintiff's rights, nor did	
Defendant Kelly observe any other deputy act	
in such manner toward Plaintiff.	
74. On May 10, 2023, Plaintiff made an	DISPUTED
expert disclosure which attached an expert	Mr. Nobel's report speaks for
report which provided no facts, opinions or	itself.
conclusions with respect to either Plaintiff's	
claims or allegations regarding unlawful	
arrest, Monell liability or punitive damages.	

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2	PLAINTIFF'S ADDITIONAL FACTS	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
3	GIVING RISE TO TRIABLE ISSUES	
4	101. The light was green when Plaintiff	Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo 46:20-21;
5	made a legal right hand turn.	54:7-9; 60:19-20; 101:20; Assiff
6		Dec. 2:1-3
7	102. There were no pedestrians in the	Assiff Dec. 2:1-3
8	crosswalk when Plaintiff made a legal right	
9	hand turn.	
10	103. There was not a smell of burnt	Assiff Dec. 2:7-8, 2:13-16;
11	marijuana emanating from Plaintiff's vehicle.	Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo 39:21-23,
12	It was 7:50 a.m. in the morning and Plaintiff,	41:9-11, 131:6-8
13	a college athlete, was on his way to basketball	
14	practice. Plaintiff did not smoke any	
15	marijuana on that morning. Plaintiff never	
16	smoked marijuana in his Vehicle.	
17	104. Plaintiff was not agitated and his speech	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
18	was not rapid.	BWC video, generally
19	105. Defendant Kelly did not request the	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
20	driver's license three times. The first claimed	BWC at 07:52:58
21	request was interrupted by cross-talk and	
22	never completed.	
23	106. Once Plaintiff was requested to produce	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
24	his driver's license for the first time, Plaintiff	BWC 07:53:25
25	immediately complied and reached for his	
26	wallet.	
27		

107. Even Defendant Kelly in his deposition	Ferlauto Dec. 2:10-13; Exhibit B,
conceded that Plaintiff was in the process of	Defendant Kelly's BWC 07:53:25
producing his driver's licenses when	
Defendant Kelly, not Plaintiff, re-engaged	
Plaintiff in the debate over the color of the	
light.	
108. Plaintiff stated his intention to record	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
the interaction on his mobile phone after	BWC at 07:53:33-37
Defendant Kelly irrationally threatened to	
throw Plaintiff in jail 42 seconds into a traffic	
stop for a minor traffic infraction.	
109. Immediately after Plaintiff stated his	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
intention to record the interaction on his	BWC at 07:53:40
mobile phone, Defendant Kelly threw open	
the door to Plaintiff's vehicle and grabbed	
Plaintiff's arm in an effort to prevent Plaintiff	
from recording the encounter.	
110. Plaintiff never kicked Defendant Kelly.	Assiff Dec. 2:17-18; Exhibit 1,
	Assiff Depo. 145:9-13 "There was
	no – there was no fight. It wasn't
	me, you know, besides me pulling
	back my arm, none of that. While
	all that was going on, I didn't kick,
	I didn't punch, nothing." See, also
	Defendant Kelly's BWC, Kelly
	grabs for Plaintiff's cell phone and
	no kick is visible, 07:53:40

111. Defendant Kelly conceded in his	Ferlauto Dec. 2:14-16
deposition the he did not see the kick. His	
motorcycle pants were thickly padded and it	
may have been Plaintiff's knee with which he	
came into contact.	
112. After Defendant Kelly threatened to	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
pepper spray Plaintiff only 73 seconds into a	BWC at 07:54:06
traffic stop for a minor traffic infraction,	
Plaintiff requested to speak with Defendant	
Kelly's supervisor.	
113. Defendant Kelly deployed the pepper	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
spray in immediate response to Plaintiff's	BWC at 07:54:06-7; The request
request to speak with Defendant Kelly's	to speak to the supervisor was at
supervisor.	07:54:06, the pepper spray was
	deployed at 07:54:07 and
	Defendant Kelly can be heard
	angrily shouting "I AM THE
	SUPERVISOR" as he sprayed the
	pepper spray into Plaintiff's face.
114. Plaintiff did not punch Deputy Clark in	Assiff Dec. 2:18-19; Exhibit 1,
the chest.	Assiff Depo. 145:9-13 "There was
	no – there was no fight. It wasn't
	me, you know, besides me pulling
	back my arm, none of that. While
	all that was going on, I didn't kick,
	I didn't punch, nothing." See, also
	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's

	BWC, no punch by Plaintiff is ever visible.
115. Defendant Kelly in his deposition conceded that he could not see the punch on the video and had trouble locating where in the video it allegedly occurred. 116. Plaintiff merely passively resisted the	Ferlauto Dec. 2:17-19 Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's
deputies' efforts to remove Plaintiff from his vehicle, while the two deputies pepper sprayed, punched and choked Plaintiff.	BWC generally; Assiff Dec. 2:4-6, 2;17-20; Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo. 145:9-13; Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 18, ¶ 44
117. After being removed from his vehicle, Plaintiff was not resisting. He was involuntarily thrashing about as a result of being pepper sprayed in the face and tased in the back. He did not kick or punch.	Exhibit B, Defendant Kelly's BWC generally; Exhibit 1, Assiff Depo. 145:9-13 "There was no – there was no fight. It wasn't me, you know, besides me pulling back my arm, none of that. While all that was going on, I didn't kick, I didn't punch, nothing."
118. Sergeant Kelly's Failure to Use De- Escalation Techniques Was Inconsistent with Generally Accepted Police Practices 119. Police officers are taught that it is generally preferable to avoid conflict (i.e., conflict avoidance) or use communication skills to reduce or resolve conflict (e.g., de-	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, pp. 14-15, ¶¶ 30-37 Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 14, ¶ 30

escalation) than it is to use force. Doing so	
increases both officer safety and the safety of	
the individuals with whom officers are	
interacting.	
120. De-escalation means taking action to	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
stabilize the situation and reduce the	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 14,
immediacy of the threat so that more time,	¶ 31
options, and resources are available to resolve	
the situation. The goal of de-escalation is to	
gain the voluntary compliance of subjects,	
when feasible, and thereby reduce or	
eliminate the necessity to use physical force.	
121. Police officers are trained that de-	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
escalation is accomplished through verbal	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 14,
persuasion; slowing down a situation	¶ 31
allowing for more time, options and	
resources; avoiding or minimizing physical	
confrontation; maximizing tactical advantage	
by increasing distance to allow for greater	
reaction time; and the use of shielding, when	
possible, for cover and concealment.	
122. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
Policy states, "Department members shall	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 15
only use that level of force which is	¶ 32
objectively reasonable, and force should be	
used as a last resort. Whenever feasible,	
Department members should endeavor to de-	

1	escalate confrontations through tactical	
2	communication, crisis intervention,	
3	advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion,	
4	and other common-sense methods (such as	
5	utilizing alternative tactics) which can	
6	prevent the need to use force, or reduce the	
7	amount of force, that is required."	
8	123. Sergeant Kelly unnecessarily escalated	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
9	the contact with Mr. Assiff creating the need	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 15,
10	to use force that would have likely not have	¶ 33
11	been otherwise necessary.	
12	124. Police officers are trained that they	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
13 14	should strive to be courteous and professional	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 15,
15	during a traffic stop. Officers are trained that	¶ 33
16	the attitude of the officer can affect the	
17	reaction of the driver and the outcome of a	
18	vehicle stop. Officers should make their	
19	approach in a businesslike manner while also	
20	employing verbal communication techniques.	
21	Flexibility and courtesy are important in	
22	making contact with the vehicle occupants.	
23	125. Police officers are trained that a major	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
24	goal of law enforcement is to generate	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 15,
25	voluntary compliance without resorting to	¶ 34
26	physical force.	
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126. Here, instead of simply telling Mr. Assiff why he had been stopped, Sergeant Kelly initiated the conversation by asking Mr. Assiff the color of the light when he made his turn. When Mr. Assiff told Sergeant Kelly he believed the light was green, Sergeant Kelly told Mr. Assiff to stop and extended his hand out to Mr. Assiff in a manner consistent with telling Mr. Assiff to stop talking and told Mr. Assiff that he was "freaking out." Mr. Assiff tried to explain his perspective to Sergeant Kelly and Sergeant Kelly told Mr. Assiff he was not going to talk. 37 seconds after his initial contact with Mr. Assiff, Sergeant Kelly told him to provide his driver's license, or he would be going to jail.

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 15,

¶ 35

127. Sergeant Kelly failed to take basic reasonable steps to de-escalate the situation before telling Mr. Assiff that he would be arrested and using force to gain compliance. It is not unusual for motorist to question the reason for their stop and to spend a few minutes explaining the reasons for the stop and de-escalating the situation to gain voluntary compliance. Indeed, the LAPD supervisor's report states that Sergeant Kelly was able to use de-escalation skills to gain

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 15, ¶ 36

voluntary compliance on the stop he made	
immediately prior to his stop of Mr. Assiff.	
128. Had Sergeant Kelly followed generally	Defendant's Exhibit G, Exp
accepted police practices and his department	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p.
policy and used de-escalation to gain	¶ 37
voluntary compliance, it is likely that no force	
would have been necessary.	
129. Sergeant Kelly's Use of Pepper Spray on	Defendant's Exhibit G, Exp
Mr. Assiff was Objectively Unreasonable,	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p.
Excessive and Inconsistent with Generally	19, ¶¶ 38-46
Accepted Police Practices	
130. Police officers are trained that the U.S.	Defendant's Exhibit G, Exp
Supreme Court in its landmark decision	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p.
Graham v. Connor held that to determine	¶ 38
whether the force used to affect a particular	
seizure is reasonable, one must balance the	
nature and quality of the intrusion on the	
individual's rights against the countervailing	
government interests at stake. This balancing	
test is achieved by the application of what the	
Court labeled the objective reasonableness	
test. The factors to be considered include: 1.)	
The severity of the crime, 2.) Whether the	
suspect poses an immediate threat to the	
safety of the officers or others, and 3.)	
Whether the suspect is actively resisting or	
attempting to evade arrest by flight.	

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131. Whether one's actions were objectively reasonable cannot be considered in a vacuum, but must be considered in relation to the totality of the circumstances. The standard for evaluating the unreasonable use of force reflects deference to the fact that peace officers are often forced to make split-second judgments in tense circumstances concerning the amount of force required. The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 16, ¶ 39

132. Police officers are trained and prepared to assess dangerous situations and respond accordingly. Police officers are trained that for their force to be reasonable the level and manner of force must be proportional to the level of resistance and threat with which they are confronted. Proportionality is best understood as a range of permissible conduct based on the totality of the circumstances, rather than a set of specific, sequential, predefined force tactics arbitrarily paired to specified types or levels of resistance or threat.

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 16, ¶ 40

133. Whether or not the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others is the most important of the *Graham* factors. There must be objective factors to justify an immediate threat, as a simple statement by an officer that he fears for his safety or the safety of others is insufficient. There is no requirement that a police officer wait until a suspect harms another to confirm that a serious threat of harm exists, but merely a subjective fear or a hunch will not justify the use of force by police.

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 16, ¶41

- 134. When determining whether or not there is an immediate threat to the officer or others, police officers are trained to assess a number of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to:
- a. Severity of the threat to officers or others.
- b. The conduct of the individual being confronted as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time.
- c. Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number of officers vs. subjects).
- d. The effects of drugs or alcohol.
- e. Subject's mental state or capacity.

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, pp. 16-17, ¶ 42

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135. Here, Sergeant Kelly said when he opened the driver's door of Mr. Assiff's vehicle, he grabbed Mr. Assiff's left wrist because he could not see where he was reaching to control him as he exited the vehicle. Sergeant Kelly said as soon as he grabbed Mr. Assiff's risk, Mr. Assiff aggressively pulled his arm away and kicked him in the left leg with his left foot.

a. The video evidence from Sergeant Kelly's BWC contradicts his statement that Mr. Assiff kicked him.

b. Instead, the video shows Sergeant Kelly yelling at Mr. Assiff to "Give me your driver's license now or you're going to jail!" Mr. Assiff immediately responds, "I'm going to . . .bro, hold on bro, let me get on my phone." Mr. Assiff appears to be holding his phone. Sergeant Kelly immediately opens the driver's door and tells Mr. Assiff to get out of the car. Sergeant Kelly appears to grab for Mr. Assiff and Mr. Assiff screams, "Whoa, whoa, whoa," and leans toward the passenger side of the vehicle as Sergeant Kelly backs away. Sergeant Kelly radios for a back up officer and yells to another deputy who is nearby. Sergeant Kelly then again orders Mr.

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 17-18, ¶ 43

1	Assiff to exit the vehicle and tells him if he	
2	doesn't, he will get pepper sprayed. Mr.	
3	Assiff is holding his phone up apparently	
4	videotaping Sergeant Kelly and asks to speak	
5	with his supervisor. Sergeant Kelly yells, "I	
6	am a supervisor," and sprays Mr. Assiff with	
7	his OC spray in the face.	
8	c. Sergeant Assiff said he used his OC spray	
9	because Mr. Assiff reached toward the center	
10	console with his right hand and fearing that	
11	he may be retrieving a weapon, he sprayed a	
12	1-2 second burst of his OC spray at Mr.	
13	Assiff's face.	
14	d. The video shows both of Mr. Assiff's	
15	hands just prior to Sergeant Kelly's use of the	
16	OC spray and Mr. Assiff never reached for	
17	the center console as claimed by Sergeant	
18	Kelly.	
19 20	136. While Mr. Assiff was not complying	Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert
21	with Sergeant Kelly's commands he was not	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p. 18,
22	actively resisting, but merely passively	¶ 44
23	resisting.	
24	a. Passive resistance is defined as "Does not	
25	respond to verbal commands but also offers	
26	no physical form of resistance."	
27	b. Active resistance is defined as "Physically	
	evasive movements to defeat an officer's	
28		

attempt at control, including bracing, tensing,	
running away, or verbally or physically	
signaling an intention to avoid or prevent	
being taken into or retained in custody."	
137. Police officers are trained that the use of	Defendant's Exhibit G, Exp
OC spray for someone engaging in passive	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, p.
resistance is excessive.	¶ 45
138. Sergeant Kelly and Deputy Clark	Defendant's Exhibit G, Exp
claimed that Mr. Assiff punched Deputy	Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, pp.
Clark in the chest and Sergeant Kelly said in	19, ¶ 46
response he punched Mr. Assiff in the face.	
a. The video evidence does not show Mr.	
Assiff punching Deputy Clark, or anyone	
else, during the incident and Mr. Assiff	
denied that he ever punched or kicked	
anyone.	
b. There is no legitimate police training that	
instructs officers to strike subjects in the head	
or face; indeed, police agencies commonly	
instruct officers to avoid such strikes unless	
circumstances justify the application of	
deadly force. Under some circumstances	
strikes to the head or face can be reasonably	
expected to risk of causing death or serious	
physical injury. There is a substantial	
likelihood, depending on the type of strike	
and where the strikes connect, that a strike	

will damage the eyes, nose, orbital bone, cheekbone, or jaw through blunt trauma; cause permanent scarring by, for example, tearing the skin or damaging the outer ear; cause a head to twist beyond normal rotation in a way that injures the cervical spine and or associated muscles; or cause an epidural hematoma, which can carry a substantial risk of death. Police officers in California are trained that serious bodily harm or injury means a serious impairment of physical condition, including, but not limited to, the following: loss of consciousness, concussion, bone fracture, protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ, a wound requiring extensive suturing, and serious disfigurement.

c. The use of a punch to the face in these circumstances was excessive, objectively unreasonable and inconsistent with generally accepted police practices.

139. Deputy Clark said that he reached into the vehicle and attempted to wrap his right arm around Mr. Assiff's upper torso, but Mr. Assiff pulled his upper body back into the passenger seat and as a result, his right arm slid up around Mr. Assiff's shoulders and

Defendant's Exhibit G, Expert Report of Jeffrey J. Nobel, pp. 19-20, ¶ 47

neck. Deputy Clark said he did not apply	
pressure to Mr. Assiff's neck or attempt to	
apply a carotid restraint hold. Deputy Clark	
said he let go of Mr. Assiff's upper body and	
again tried to grab his left wrist and grabbed	
his hair in an attempt to pull him out of the	
vehicle.	
a. Deputy Clark's actions were captured by	
Mr. Assiff's cell phone video.	
b. While Deputy Clark claims he immediately	
released his neck hold, it appears that deputy	
Clark pulled Mr. Assiff from the vehicle by	
use of his neck hold.	
c. The use of a neck hold in these	
circumstances is excessive, objectively	
unreasonable and inconsistent with generally	
accepted police practices.	
140. Defendant Kelly is a bad motorcycle	See, Additional Facts 141 through
cop. He has repeatedly been subject to	150, below.
complaints from members of the public for	
being rude and abusive.	
141. In July of 2013, Defendant Kelly was	Exhibit 4; COLA 34-37
rude to a motorist during a traffic stop. He	
threw the driver's license back at the motorist	
(a nurse), took back the citation, changed it,	
gave it back to the motorist, and said, "now	
it's double."	

142. In November of 2019, Defendant	Exhibit 5; COLA 65-67
KELLY was dealing with a motorist involved	
n a collision. The motorist complained that	
Defendant KELLY was incomplete,	
defensive, disrespectful and condescending.	
The Department investigated and concluded,	
"our employee could have been better."	
143. In February of 2020, Defendant KELLY	Exhibit 6; COLA 71-72
was accused of harassing a motorist and	
arresting a motorist for merely having an	
expired registration. After an investigation of	
the complaint, the Sheriff's Department again	
concluded, "our employee could have been	
better."	
144. In April of 2020, Defendant KELLY	Exhibit 7; COLA 69
was subject of a personnel complaint while	
dealing with a member of the public who	
called into the station to complain about	
excessive motorcycle noise. Defendant	
KELLY, a motorcycle cop and rider,	
reportedly refused to accept the report, was	
rude, and threatened to hang up.	
145. In June of 2022, Defendant KELLY was	Exhibit 8; COLA 73-75
once again rude to a motorist. He threw the	
motorist's credentials back at the motorist and	
told him to "enjoy your citation." After an	
investigation of the complaint, the Sheriff's	

Department once again concluded, "our	
employee could have been better."	
146. These repeated complaints show that	See Additional Facts 141-14
Defendant KELLY simply does not have the	above, and 147-150, below.
temperament, nor the manners, to be a law	
enforcement officer dealing with motorists	
and other members of the public.	
147. In June of 2014, Defendant KELLY	Exhibit 9; COLA 39-43
while riding a motorcycle off-duty was	
himself pulled over by a sergeant with the	
LAPD for speeding. Defendant KELLY was	
rude to the sergeant, questioned where he	
worked, and drove off from the traffic stop	
before the sergeant could cite him. The	
Sheriff's Department investigated the incident	
and yet again officially concluded "the	
actions of [Defendant KELLY] should have	
been better." Internally, Defendant KELLY's	
supervisor found, "[y]our actions were	
unprofessional and your behavior brought	
discredit to yourself and the Department."	
148. In deposition, while discussing the June	Ferlauto Dec. 2:24-3:6
2014 incident, Defendant Kelly confessed	
that he did not like working for an African	
American captain and only signed the	
performance log entry (COLA-40) because	
his signature was coerced from him.	

1	Allegedly, the African American captain	
2	threatened to withhold Defendant Kelly's	
3	promotion unless he signed the performance	
4	log entry. If Defendant Kelly is to be	
5	believed, he was required to admit to rude,	
6	unprofessional, discrediting, officious, and	
7	overbearing (if not illegal) conduct to secure	
8	his promotion to sergeant. Defendant Kelly	
9	also admitted to signing the performance log	
0	entry so he could stop working underneath	
1	the African American captain.	
2	149. In July of 2015, Defendant Kelly was	Exhibit 10; COLA 57-59
3	criticized for his conduct leading up to a use	
4	of force incident against an Hispanic inmate.	
5	According to reports, Defendant Kelly had a	
6	history of conflict with this Hispanic inmate.	
7	Defendant Kelly caused this inmate to be	
8	sentenced to 29 days of discipline for	
9	allegedly being disrespectful, and yet it was	
0	Defendant Kelly who had been disrespectful.	
1	He said to the inmate, "What the fuck are	
2	you, a Southsider (an Hispanic jail gang	
3	member)" After sentencing this Hispanic	
4	inmate to discipline, Defendant Kelly taunted	
5	the inmate outside his cell. Defendant Kelly	
6	called the Hispanic inmate a "faggot" and	
27	"little punk." When the inmate responded by	

1	saying he should have taken his shot at	
2	Defendant Kelly at the discipline hearing,	
3	Defendant Kelly responded, "Oh you want a	
4	chance?" Then Defendant Kelly, against	
5	department policy, ordered the inmate's cell	
6	door opened, stood in the doorway, and said,	
7	"Here's your shot." A physical altercation	
8	between the inmate and Defendant Kelly	
9	ensued and the inmate claimed he was beaten	
10	and choked.	
11	150. Defendant Kelly was criticized for this	Exhibit 11, COLA 60-64; Exhibit
12	use of force by his supervisor for there being	12, COLA-44;
13	no video of the incident, there was no radio	Ferlauto Dec. 3:7-9.
14	broadcast of the incident, and Defendant	
15	Kelly opened the cell door against department	
16	policy. An internal affairs investigation	
17 18	apparently resulted in Defendant Kelly being	
18	suspended for 4 days, but the suspension was	
20	not given until almost three years later in	
21	April of 2017. Furthermore, Defendant Kelly	
22	in his deposition admitted that he never	
23	served the 4 day suspension.	
24	151. In spite of all of these glaring warning	Exhibit 13, COLA 23
25	signs showing that Defendant Kelly is unfit to	
26	be a Sheriff's Deputy, he was nevertheless	
27	promoted to sergeant and in his July 2020	
28	performance evaluation his supervisor wrote,	
20		

'you are an outstanding sergeant and a key	
member of my team."	
152. The incident that is the subject matter of	Assiff Dec. 2:9-12
his lawsuit happened while Plaintiff was	
raveling to the Antelope Valley. However, it	
occurred in Santa Clarita, in a northern part of	
the County, but just one Sheriff's Department	
station adjacent to but south of the actual	
Antelope Valley.	
153. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's	Exhibits 14 and 15.
Department has a long and sordid history of	
racial profiling and discriminatory traffic	
stops, particularly in the County's northern	
stations, such as the Antelope Valley. For	
years, black and Latino residents in the	
Antelope Valley complained they were the	
victims of racially biased stops and searches	
along with other mistreatment by Los	
Angeles County Sheriff's deputies. In 2013,	
the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights	
Division analyzed Sheriff's Department data	
from tens of thousands of vehicle and	
pedestrian stops, interviewed hundreds of	
people and reviewed volumes of internal	
sheriff's documents, and after this thorough	
analysis the Department of Justice "found that	
LASD's Antelope Valley stations have	

	engaged in a pattern or practice of	
2	discriminatory and otherwise unlawful	
3	searches and seizures, including the use of	
1 5	unreasonable force, in violation of the Fourth	
	Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment, and	
	Title VI." The findings forced the county to	
	reach a legal settlement with federal	
	authorities in 2015 that called for significant	
	reforms and continued oversight.	
	154. However, despite all of this, the racial	Exhibit 16.
	profiling and discriminatory traffic stops	
	persist, as evidenced by continued gross	
	racial disparities. An NCCD report from	
	2020 found on the Sheriff's Department's	
	own website entitled, "An Analysis of	
	Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Stops by Los	
	Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies in the	
	Antelope Valley" the report found that Black	
	drivers make up 32% of all traffic stops even	
	though they account for only 17% of the	
	population. The report also found that black	
	drivers once stopped were more likely to have	
	both their vehicle and their persons searched,	
	more likely to experience backseat detentions,	
	and more likely to be asked if they are on	
	probation or parole. All this is in spite of the	
	fact that black drivers have a much lower	

contraband discovery rate (15.4%) than either	
their white or Hispanic counterparts (24.4%	
and 22.3% respectfully). This problem with	
racial profiling and discriminatory traffic	
stops in the Antelope Valley is not an isolated	
single incident, but rather a persistent and	
ongoing problem with the Los Angeles	
County Sheriff's Department recognized by	
the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights	
Division.	
55. The racial disparities also existed in	Exhibit 14, Exhibit 1, p. 50
those suspicious use of force incidents (such as	
he incident between Plaintiff and Defendant	
KELLY) where a suspect was charged with	
only resisting arrest or obstructing an officer	
out no other crimes. U.S. Department of	
Justice, Civil Rights Division found as	
follows: "Perhaps most strikingly, we found	
that 81% of the uses of force we reviewed	
where the only charge was obstruction-related	
involved targets who were African American	
or Latino. For the 25 felony obstruction-only	
arrests, 88% involved victims who were	
people of color. This is an extraordinarily	
disproportionate number of obstruction	
charges involving use of force against people	
of color and warrants close attention by the	

1	Department. See, Arlington Heights, 429 U.S.	
2	at 266 (intent may be established by "clear	
3	pattern, unexplainable on grounds other than	
4	race")."	
5	156. The US DOJ's findings and the findings	Exhibits 14, 15, 16; Additional
6	of the Sheriff's Department's own oversight	Facts 118-139, 140-151
7	monitors show that the unconstitutional racial	
8	profiling and discriminatory traffic stops in the	
9	northern parts of the Sheriff's Department's	
10	jurisdiction, as well as the County's	
11	supervision, training, retention, promotion and	
12	rewarding of violent and abusive deputies such	
13	as Defendant Kelly reflect the County's	
14	unwritten policies, customs, practices and	
15	usages in violation of the Fourth and	
16	Fourteenth Amendment respectively to the	
17	United States Constitution, which policies,	
18	customs, practices, and usages resulted in	
19	Plaintiff's injury and the County's Monell	
20	liability.	
21		
22	DATED: June <u>5th</u> , 2023 The Law Office	Of Thomas M. Ferlauto, APC
23		

By: _

Thomas M. Ferlauto

Attorney For: Plaintiff, JOSHUA ASSIFF

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